

## **EXHIBIT A**

**U.S. Patent No.**  
**6,386,593 B1**

### **Claims 1-20 (Pending)**

21. (New)      A fluid-tight conduit connection                          10, 20, 80  
                      for coupling a male conduit and a receiver block for an  
                      air conditioning system,  
                      said fluid-tight conduit connection comprising:  
                      a male conduit with    20  
                      an end and    22  
                      an outer wall,    Fig. 5  
                      said male conduit having  
                      a radially outwardly extending annular flange                          24  
                      formed thereon and  
                      an annular groove    28  
                      formed in the outer wall  
                      spaced from said end and said annular flange;                          22, 24  
                      a receiver block having    80  
                      a first aperture formed therein    84  
                      adapted to receive said male conduit,    20

said first aperture defining	84
an inner surface of said receiver block,	82
said inner surface of said receiver block which	82
defines said first aperture having	84
a flared shape to	86
cooperate with said male conduit,	20
said receiver block further having	80
a second aperture formed therein;	88
a seal	60
disposed between the annular flange of said male	24, 20
conduit and said inner surface of said receiver block	82, 80
to provide at least an axial seal between said	Fig. 6
male conduit and the inner surface of said receiver	
block to provide at least an axial seal between said	
male conduit and said inner surface of said receiver	
block;	
a circumferential seal	30
disposed within said annular groove of said male	28, 20
conduit to provide at least a radial seal between	Fig. 5
said male conduit and said inner surface of	20, 82
said receiver block; and	80
means for fastening said male conduit to said receiver block	45, 46, 88
	90, 92
for securely holding said male conduit and said receiver	Fig. 5

block adjacent one another to engage said male conduit  
and said inner surface of said receiver block.

22. (New)    The fluid-tight conduit connection as claimed in claim 21, wherein  
said fastening means further comprises:

an end-form block having	40
a first aperture formed therein	46
to receive said male conduit,	20
said end-form block abutting said annular	40, 24
flange on a side opposite the end of said male conduit,	20
said end-form block having a second aperture formed	
therein.	40, 56

23. (New)    The fluid-tight conduit connection according to claim 22,

wherein said fastening means is a threaded stud having:	90
a first end and	Fig. 5
a second end,	Fig. 5
said first end of said stud threadingly engaging	
the second aperture of said receiver block,	88
said second end of said stud being inserted through	
said second aperture of said end-form block and	56
having a nut threadingly disposed thereon.	92

24. (New) The fluid-tight conduit connection according to claim 22,	Col. 8, ll 15-22
wherein there is a press fit between a wall forming the aperture of said end-form block and said outer wall of said male conduit.	Col. 9, ll 1-4
25. (New) The fluid-tight conduit connection according to claim 21,	60, 30
wherein said seal provides both an axial seal and a radial seal between said male conduit and said inner surface of said receiver block.	20, 82 80
26. (New) The fluid-tight conduit connection according to claim 22,	Fig. 5
wherein an inner diameter of said male conduit within said end-form block and said receiver block is substantially the same as an inner diameter of said male conduit outside of said end-form block and said receiver block.	